are competent to enact a law, subject to other provisions in the Constitution.

Action Plan for small and medium scale industries

3003. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for the small, medium scale industries in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard along with its likely benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) As on date there is no defnition for medium enterprise/ unit. However, the Government introduced a Bill, *viz.*,"Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005" in the Lok Sabha on 12th May, 2005. The said Bill *interalia* provides a definition for medium manufacturing enterprise and medium service enterprise and also addresses the issues concerning promoting and development of small and medium industries. In addition, a package for promotion of small enterprises sector is under consideration of the Government which, *interalia*, has provision for credit support, fiscal incentives, technological and marketing assistance, entrepreneurship development, infrastructural development, etc.

Setting up cashew nuts progeny orchard in Karnataka

3004. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of keeping the high export potential of cashew nuts, the State Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal to the Central Government for setting up a cashew progeny orchard in Karnataka at a total cost of Rs. 43 lakhs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when is the proposal likely to be considered for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The State Government has submitted a proposal for the establishment of a cashew processing cluster in the coastal district of Mangalore in Karnataka at a total project cost of Rs. 29.30 lakhs under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Government of Karnataka is to submit the revised proposal in accordance with the guidelines of IIUS.

Steps to remove bottlenecks to exports

3005. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that time has come to address the labour laws, infrastructure bottlenecks in order to remove constraints to exports;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken so far to that direction; and

(c) the details of the Ministries involved in this respect and their respective strategies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Removal of infrastructure bottlenecks, labour law reforms, etc., are part of a continuing process of economic and institutional reforms in the country which, *inter alia*, are expected to enhance economic growth and improve the competitiveness of Indian exports. The strategies of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2004-09 announced by the Government include upgrading of infrastructural network to international standards in the foreign trade chain.

(c) The Government has been evolving plans and policies in coordination with various Departments to address problems related to international trade. The Board of Trade has been reconstituted to advice the Government on policy measures to enhance India's exports. With a view to facilitating inter-Ministerial coordination and consultation while formulating respective strategies in the context of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), representatives of various Ministries are members of this Board.